IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (currently amended) A method for providing access to users based on user profiles and using a web-based system that includes a server system coupled to a centralized interactive database and at least one client system, said method comprising the steps of:

creating an electronic profile for a user within a centralized database;

creating an electronic profile for data within the centralized database;

establishing pre-determined rules and methodology for user access;

making a decision with reference to the user access after completing an evaluation based on the electronic profiles, pre-determined rules, and operating methodology in response to a request from the user for access;

if the user is denied access, prompting the user to complete a request for quick approval wherein the request for quick approval includes a list of data for approval;

automatically determining, using is subjected to an internal exception access process an approval or a disapproval of quick access, and quick approval is approved based on pre-established criteria and the list of data for approval;

if the request for quick approval is approved, at least one of automatically adding a rule to the database and automatically adding a user to the database;

if the rule is added, updating an exception list; and

notifying the user of the approval.

retrieving from the centralized database, an exception access rule including pre-established criteria;

applying the exception access rule to the completed request for quick approval; and

automatically approving access based on the exception access rule.

2.   (previously presented)   A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of creating an electronic profile for a user further comprises the step of creating an electronic profile based on information available from at least one an Oracle Human Resource Application and a Request for Computer Access Application.

3.   (original)   A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of creating an electronic profile for data further comprises the step of creating data profiles based on at least one of Data Elements, Data Tags, Rules of Access, an Approver's Name for Each Rule of Access, Rules of Exclusion, an Exception List, and Field Tags.

4.   (original)   A method according to Claim 3 wherein said step of establishing pre-determined rules and methodology for user access further comprises the steps of:

establishing pre-determined rules in the centralized database based on at least one of Rule Based Access guidelines, Group Based Access guidelines, Search & Subscribe Utilities guidelines, Active Positioning Monitoring guidelines, Hard Exclusion Rules guidelines, and Access Audits guidelines; and

establishing methodology to ensure timely and accurate decision making based on criteria established by the management.

5.   (currently amended)   A method for managing user profile information, including managing access control to applications and data by implementing a level of security across the different applications that is the same for each application, using a web-based system that includes a server system coupled to a centralized interactive database and at least one client system, said method comprising the steps of:

providing capabilities for a user to request access to information that the user currently does not have access to;

tracking a status of the request using a tracking component coupled to the centralized interactive database;

obtaining a decision from an owner of the data requested;

~~if the decision is access approval, adding at least one of a rule and the user to the database;~~

~~notifying the user of the decision;~~

if the user is denied access, prompting the user to complete a request for quick approval <u>wherein the request for quick approval includes a list of the information the user is requesting access to for approval;</u>

<u>automatically determining, using an internal exception access process an approval or a disapproval of the quick access request based on pre-established criteria and the list of information the user is requesting access to;</u>

<u>if the request for quick approval is approved, at least one of automatically adding a rule to the database and automatically adding a user to the database;</u>

<u>if the rule is added, updating an exception list; and</u>

<u>notifying the user of the approval.</u>

~~retrieving from the centralized database, an exception access rule including pre-established criteria;~~

~~applying the exception access rule to the completed request for quick approval; and~~

~~automatically approving access based on the exception access rule.~~

6.   (original)   A method according to Claim 5 wherein said step of obtaining a decision further comprises the step of obtaining at least one of an approval decision and a disapproval decision.

7.   (original)   A method according to Claim 5 wherein said step of implementing the decision further includes the steps of reviewing and auditing the user access.

8.   (original)   A method according to Claim 5 wherein said step of implementing the decision further includes the step of creating a consistent security model

that includes centralized administration of security of the system and uses single user profile and privilege for accessing different applications.

9. (original) A method according to Claim 5 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

creating user profiles;

providing access control to data associated with user profiles;

defining permissions based on a user identifier associated with user profiles; and

developing a specification for user interfaces.

10. (original) A method according to Claim 5 further comprising the step of providing administration of a common security model for access control and event notification.

11. (original) A method according to Claim 5 further comprising the step of updating profiles automatically on at least one of a pre-determined timed interval and a change in organization hierarchy.

12. (original) A method according to Claim 5 further comprises the step of updating profiles automatically when a user transfers departments.

13. (original) A method according to Claim 5 further comprising the step of generating access list reports that identify accessible and non-accessible data and restrictions for access.

14. (original) A method according to Claim 5 further comprising the step of retrieving information from the centralized database in response to a specific inquiry from an administrator.

15. (original) A method according to Claim 5 wherein the client system and the server system are connected via a network and wherein the network is one of a wide area network, a local area network, an intranet and the Internet.

16.   (currently amended) A computer-implemented database <u>embodied on a computer-readable medium</u> configured to be protected from access by unauthorized individuals by managing user and data profiles by an administrator, said database providing access to users based on pre-determined rules and criteria further comprising:

pre-established criteria data developed from access rules and criteria including at least one of Rule Based Access guidelines, Group Based Access guidelines, Search & Subscribe Utilities guidelines, Active Positioning Monitoring guidelines, Hard Exclusion Rules guidelines, and Access Audits guidelines;

applications data including system administrator defined attributes that cross-references the applications profile data against unique identifiers;

user data that includes a user's organization and citizenship, that cross-references the users profile data against unique identifiers; and

pre-determined rules and methodologies data that facilitates accurate user access-decision making.

17.   (canceled)

18.   (canceled)

19.   (canceled)

20.   (canceled)